

Government Railways.

OUR SINGING MEETING AT BELMORO.

FRIDAY, 17TH MAY.

SPECIAL TRAIN will leave Sydney at 1.45 p.m., calling at Rydeburn and stations, thence to Belmoro. Train return from Belmoro at 4.45 and 5.55 p.m.

RETURN FARES: Sydney to Belmoro, 1d first-class, 1d second-class.

EXCURSION TO PARKESVALE.

SATURDAY, 18TH MAY.

THROUGH RETURN TICKETS to PARKESVALE (train to Cooma, thence by steamer to Parkesvale) will be issued for train leaving Sydney at 2.10 p.m. Available for use by 12.30 p.m.

RETURN FARES: First-class, 2s 1d; second-class, 8s 6d.

Light refreshments can be obtained on the ground. By order of the Commissioners.

H. MULACHAN, Secretary.

Amusements.

THEATRE ROYAL.

Mr. J. C. WILLIAMSON, Under the Direction of

Mr. GEORGE MUNROE.

SATURDAY, MAY 18th.

AN ARTISTIC MUSICAL EVENING.

RETURN FAREWELL.

GRAND OPERA SEASON. GRAND OPERA SEASON.

Students and all Lovers of the Most Divine Art (Music) Should Not Fail to Secure Their Seats at the Grand Opera House.

GRAND OPERA COMPANY.

GRAND OPERA COMPANY.

GRAND OPERA COMPANY.

(The most complete and high-class organisation that has ever visited Australia).

FAUST.

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Introducing to the Great Public who will make their first appearance.

ROBERT BRATHOLD.

use of the Royal Opera House, and

LEOPOLDE PRINGLE.

Principal Bass for six weeks with the "Covet Garden" Opera.

Note.—Mr. Pringle's representation of "Mephistopheles" pronounced by the press and public of Melbourne to be the most perfect ever witnessed on the Australian Opera Stage.

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matter for federal legislation cannot be overlooked; and those who represent the commercial interests of the various States have every right to take such steps as may seem to them proper to ensure that those subjects of legislation in which they and through the whole of the States are concerned receive intelligent and just treatment at the hands of those who will have to apply the Commonwealth's commercial laws.

It will have been noticed that one of the first subjects to which the General Council directed its attention was the question of a State-owned cable. The increasing importance of this has become more obvious every day, quite apart from our immediate interest in the Pacific line. As Mr. Cowdery, one of the Victorian delegates, said at the conference, it touches the security and unity of the Empire. We have frequently urged in these columns the importance of keeping our cable communications in our own hands in wartime, that it is not necessary to dwell on the point, but its gravity in the eyes of the Australian Chambers of Commerce is conclusively shown by the place they give it on their list of subjects for discussion. It is also interesting to have the early example of the proceedings afforded of the facility with which a General Council of this kind can bring a united expression of opinion to bear on so outside a subject as the revised tariff of the Philippines. It will be largely in the power of this body again to assist the Federal Government with advice on such a question as the employment of coloured labour. One of the Queensland delegates, Mr. Bartholomew, complained that the people of the other States did not understand the question. If that is so, this General Council offers an exceptionally favourable opportunity for their enlightenment. Another subject touched upon was the advisability of having the metric system taught in elementary schools. There is a good deal to be said in favour of that system on grounds of convenience, but, of course, as one of the speakers remarked, unless England chooses to lead the way in adopting it the other portions of the Empire can do nothing. These are some of the matters discussed at the first conference of the General Council. They indicate a wide range of usefulness, and a more extended scope than our Chambers have hitherto contemplated. They show that a general consensus of Australian commercial opinion can now be more readily brought to bear on questions of foreign as well as of domestic interest, and the proceedings on the whole promise well for the realisation of the aims in view when the scheme for this General Council was first mooted.

THE ELECTORAL ROLLS.

It would be well if intending voters at the coming State general election would note the graphic in this issue relating to the rolls. Steps are now being taken to prepare the annual rolls, and a house-to-house canvass is being made by the police for that purpose, but the names so collected are for the lists from which the year's rolls will be compiled. The fact that an elector's name has been taken in this way is not sufficient to justify his in believing that he can therefore vote at the State general election which will probably take place next month. There is another necessary condition. His name must appear on the existing roll. At the last federal election many thousands of voters were disfranchised by the neglect of the Government in not permitting Parliament to meet for the purpose of adjusting this matter. Those whose names were left off the final lists, and who were consequently disfranchised, will find themselves in the same case whether their names are given to the collectors at this visitation or not, unless they take steps to remedy that disability. Our paragraph this morning shows how this may be done, and in the interests of the vote to be taken in or about June next the facts of the situation cannot be too carefully studied. It ought to be made plain that any elector whose name was inadvertently left off the lists before the last election may now protest his right to vote in the coming State election by seeing that his name is properly registered on a supplementary roll. For this purpose he must personally go to his local registrar and make his claim known. Special facilities are offered for the purpose, the offices being kept open during three days in each week, and during the last week in the present month in the evenings also, from 7 o'clock to 10. The lists will close on Saturday, June 1, when the registrar's offices will be open from 2 to 6, and the return court will do the rest. Those qualified electors whose names did not appear in the rolls at the federal election have, then, this opportunity to secure their right to vote at the approaching State elections.

HOLIDAYS DURING THE ROYAL VISIT.

Now that the time fixed for the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to Sydney is drawing near, it would be well for the Government to announce their intentions with regard to the holiday or holidays to be proclaimed. In the past much inconvenience has been caused to business men by delay in such an announcement. A public holiday has been proclaimed on every eve, and thus people have been prevented from making the arrangements they desired. The banks and most stores are not made aware of the intentions of the Government in this respect, business men are seriously inconvenienced. Bankers, of course, like other members of the community, desire to join in the welcome which Sydney is to give to the Duke and Duchess, and nobody will grudge them the privilege. But what business men rightly object to is the habit in which some Ministers have indulged of guarding the date of proposed holidays as if it were a State secret. There is no reason why the Government's intentions in this regard should not already be known, so that the community generally might make arrangements accordingly. People in the country who propose to visit Sydney during the Royal visit will also have a claim to consideration. There is nothing to be gained by postponing the proclamation to the eleventh hour, whilst an announcement would be of great convenience to all concerned.

Devonshire-street Railway Station.—In order that the Government might be in a position to make operations on the Devonshire-street Railway as soon as necessary, the State Minister for Works will, when appropriate, be sent to those persons who had obtained orders for the removal of the bodies of their deceased relatives from Devonshire-street Cemetery that the cemetery may be closed to the public on the 18th instant, and that therefore all remains should be removed on or before that date. Notices to this effect have also been published in the whole of the metropolitan press for several weeks, but notwithstanding several applicants are still behind with their work.

The Minister, however, decided to give these persons another chance by extending the period to the end of the month, when the cemetery will be absolutely closed to the public. The Minister says that some work for which expenditure was applied four months ago is still untouched, and

estimates asked for two, three, and four months back are only coming to hand. It has therefore been determined to make no further concessions, and exhumation orders not completed by the 31st instant will be therupon cancelled.

Tram Service to Botany.—At the last meeting of the North Botany council Alderman Bishop drew attention to what he considered to be a want of the tram to be incorporated arrangements of the tram to run to the early morning service. There was no tram from Bay-street between 7.11 and 7.41. The latter tram consequently arrived in Sydney too late for people commencing work at 8 o'clock, while the earlier trams gave them a long time to walk after reaching the city before they commenced their day's labour. There was a large number of regular passengers who were unnecessarily inconvenienced. It is suggested that the Council should be asked to amend the 7.41 to 7.11 minutes earlier. The suggestion was adopted by the council, and the Mayor promised to have a letter written to the Commissioners on the subject.

Naval Affairs.—Yesterday the cruiser *Walrus*, *Ramsgate*, and *Mildura* took their departure from Melbourne for Sydney. The three ships belong to the Australian Auxiliary Squadron, and followed the flagship round to Port Phillip for the purpose of taking part in the naval reception to the Duke and the Duchess of Cornwall and York.

The Mail Steamers.—Yesterday the P. & O. Company's China, which landed at English mats at Fremantle in 23 days, and London, arrived at Fremantle with 1,000 passengers on board, and will be at the pier after the departure to-morrow of the Himalaya. The Imperial German mail steamer *Karlsruhe*, from Bremen, is now at Melbourne on her way to this port, and it is expected that she will arrive here on Sunday next. In the Orient line the *China*, *hence*, to London, arrived last Monday at Suez, and the *Carso* at Plymouth on the 12th instant. The *China* is due at Fremantle on the 19th, and will be at the pier after the departure of the *Himalaya*, which from the 17th ultimo. An advertisement of her passengers appears in the shipping columns. The French mail steamer *Polyphemus*, hence to Marseilles, yesterday left Melbourne.

Trade with Bristol.—To-day the steamer *Venice* of Genoa is here as the pioneer boat in a new service—the Australia-Bristol line. For some years the Gulf line has conducted a satisfactory business with the chief ports in Australia and the ports of Glasgow, Liverpool, and Manchester, and now they purpose bringing Bristol to the line. The *Venice* is the second ship of the freight which at present finds its way to London will, it is expected, be diverted to Bristol, which is a free port, there being neither wharf nor other berthing dues. The innovation is regarded as forming an opening for new trade between Sydney merchants and those of Bristol and also with the West of England and South Wales, as it is proposed to accept shipments here for delivery at the Avon River port.

Collision between Ferry Steamer.—Yester-day morning a collision occurred between the *Balmoral*, Ferry Company's steamer from the pier at Milat's, and the *Parma*, River Committee's steamer *Bronzewing*, near Peacock's Point, Balmain East. The *Balmoral* was running the 7.30 trip from the Erskine-street wharf to Balmain, and the *Bronzewing* was coming to Sydney. The *Bronzewing* struck the *Balmoral* at the paddle box, doing a considerable amount of damage. The *Bronzewing* was uninjured.

In the Harbour.—The Manly residents who customarily travel by the 8.10 boat from Manly to Circular Quay were greatly annoyed yesterday by reason of a small getting in an appearance at the wharf to run the usual trip. Looking towards the Heads it was seen that a dense bank of fog blocked the harbour from Middle Head to the lighthouse, and was so thick that no glimpse of the land round Watson's Bay could be caught. It was not till 9 o'clock that the steamer *Manly* got through from Sydney.

An interview was held yesterday afternoon between several members of the committee of the Young People's Industrial Exhibition and the Premier, when it was decided that the date of the opening of the exhibition should be postponed to the 1st of June. The opening of the exhibition will be on the 1st of June, and the closing date is the 1st of July.

Eminent authorities competent to judge have testified to the splendid work done at the hospital, and the committee, in their opinion, have done a very remarkable testimony to this effect, and urged that when the time arrived for the enlargement of the general hospital accommodation, the members of the committee should be consulted in the affairs of the Alfred Hospital by increasing its dimensions to those originally contemplated when the plan was laid out.

This estimate has been made necessary for a long time. The number of available beds is 236, and yet the number of patients is not less than 246 patients in the wards, the extra number being accounted for in the nursing wards, and other extensions about to be erected in connection with the Prince Alfred Hospital. To successfully carry out this the sum of at least £10,000 is required, and it is the opinion of the committee that the decision arrived at that sum of £10,000 is in the hands of the committee before the meeting separated. A large sum of money, £10,000, is required, and from this sum the committee, whose names appear hereto, has been selected, and you are now approached with a view to soliciting your assistance in this great noble work.

We are requested to draw attention to a sale by auction, to be held at the steamer Sydney, on June 1, at 10.30 a.m., of the effects of Messrs. Hardie and Wrench (in conjunction with Messrs. Barnes, and German) of the water-frontage residence, Lansdowne, Darling Point, and the Clarence Park Estate, Richmond. Both new numbers were enrolled.

We are requested to draw attention to an advertisement in to-day's issue in reference to a sale of investment property, to be held at 10.30 a.m. at 11, Cross-street, Surry Hills, at 2.30 p.m. on 10.5.

The H.A.A. Ball will perform in Hyde Park this afternoon, under the direction of Hans-jean McCarthy, commencing at 3 p.m.

D.A.C. will entertain us to hope that in view of the fact that visitors from plague-infested countries continue to visit the port authorities will not relax their efforts to ensure the destruction of as many rats as possible.

The monthly meeting of the Master Builders' Association was held yesterday afternoon at the old Mason's Hall, York-street.

Private individuals have been requested to contribute to the fund for the maintenance of the Prince Alfred as no more local hospital sufferers in large numbers from every part of the State report to it, so that we may be enabled to call the hospital to our aid, and in this regard we have augmented the proportion of rates the unemployed.

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TRISTRAM OF BLEN.

AN EPISODE IN THE STORY OF AN ANCIENT HOUSE.

BY ANTHONY HOPE.

COPYRIGHT 1901 IN THE U.S.A. BY ANTHONY HOPE.

[ALL RIGHTS STRICTLY RESERVED.]

CHAPTER XXI.—(Continued).

AN INSULT TO THE BLOOD.

"And in poor Addie's case of course there-well, there wasn't," proceeded Lady Evenwood with a sigh. "So Robert felt that it might be thought—"

"The people with consciences would be at him, I suppose," said Southend the moment for diplomacy approached.

But when it came to the point, Lady Evenwood surely took the task out of his hands. Her instinct told her that she could do it best; he had no right to do it, she said and that delicacy which when he must have suffered intercession from his friends; she could plead an interest which might seem impudent in him. Above all, she could be elatedly laud and make herself understood without any blushing of statement.

But it could be so managed that the whole miserable incident should be blotted out and forgotten, she explained, as though she imposed a curse.

"How can that be?" asked Harry. "I was in, and I am out, Lady Evenwood."

"You're out, and your cousin's in, yes."

Harry's eyes noted the words and dwelt on her face. "She can't be happy in that state of affairs either."

"Perhaps not," he admitted. "Facts are facts, though."

There are ways—ways of preventing that,"

Southend responded vaguely.

"I don't know how you'll manage to do it, but we all think you ought to consider other things besides your personal preferences. Might I tell Mr. Disney—no, one moment, please! Our idea, I mean, was that there might be a family arrangement. A moment, please. Mr. Tristram! I don't mean, by which she would lose what she has—"

"But that I should get it?"

"Well, yes, Oh, I know your feelings. But I would come to you, if you came to me, to the court of law."

"Oh, dear me!" murmured the Imp. This historical inquiry was neither comprehensible nor interesting. But they discussed it eagerly for some minutes before agreeing that, wherever the truth lay, a viscount could not be considered out of the question for the Tristram's legitimate and proper wife.

"And that's where the match would be, of decisive value," Lady Evenwood concluded.

"Diana said as much evidently. So you understand, Madame Zabriké?"

"He could take Blenheim, you know. It's all very simple."

"Well, I'm not sure that our friend Iver isn't keeping for him," said Southend.

"Oh, he can be Lord Briton and Putty," she suggested. "But there is a secret in her words a despicable hint of a secret for that purpose by which the viscount (not to say the viscountess) of the British aristocracy is notoriously maintained."

"Blenheim would do very well for Harry Tristram."

"Well, then, what's to be done?" asked Southend.

"We must give him a hint, George."

"Have we enough to go upon? Suppose Diana turned round and—"

"I don't know what to do. Besides, we needn't play anything. We can just put the case."

She smiled thoughtfully. "I'm still not quite sure how Mr. Tristram will take it, you know."

"How he'll take it? He'll jump at it, of course."

"The girl or the title, George?"

"Well, both together. Won't he, Madame Zabriké?"

Mine thought great things of the girl, and even greater, if vulgar, of the title.

"I should like to think so," she replied complacently. "There was a limit to the perversity even of the Tristram."

"We mustn't put it too baldly," observed Southend, darting his eye.

"Oh, he'll think more of the thing itself than of how we put it," Lady Evenwood declared.

From her knowledge of Harry, the Imp was exactly of that opinion. But Southend was for diplomacy: indeed, what pleasure is there in manufacturing enemies if they are not to be considered as dubious? A policy that can be defined on a strategic station has no attraction for incautious minds, although it is usually the most effective with a nation.

Harry Tristram returned from Blenheimpton in a state of intellectual satisfaction marred by a sense of emotional emptiness. He had been very active, very energetic, very successful. He had new and cogent evidence of his power, not merely to start but to go on with his own account of the case. But he had not yet succeeded in getting himself to realize his own feelings. That he had so far wasted the time in that he had seen nobody and nothing beautiful. Men of affairs had no concern with a feeling like that. Would Iver have it, or would Mr. Disney? Surely not! It would be a positive inconvenience to them, or at best a worthless asset. He traced it back to Blent, to that influence which he had almost brought himself to call malignant, because it seemed to him a clear step and a sure sign that that soul had a long way to go. He had seen nobody and nothing beautiful. Men of affairs had no concern with a feeling like that.

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